

## HENRY EARL AND SALLIE JORDAN DANIELS

My dad, Henry Earl Daniels, was born September 22, 1896, in Falkland (Pitt County), North Carolina to William James and Sue L Morgan Daniel. Earl lived near his Morgan grandparents for the first 13 or 14 years of his life. Then the family moved to Orange County to be near the Daniel family. In Orange County they lived first with John Green and Amanda Marshall Daniel (Earl's grandparents) for about a year before moving across the county line into Caswell County to the old James B. Daniel place on the Hyco River. Earl's baby sister, Mabel, started to school while they were living there. Next, they moved back to Orange County to Cedar Grove and lived in the old James B. Daniel home. (Earl's great-grandfather moved from Caswell to Orange County after the Civil War and was still living in this house at the time of his death in 1904).

Earl was 18 while they were living at Cedar Grove and when an important thing happened. His Aunt Emma Wilson had company from Burlington for "Big Meeting" (annual church meeting for the Primitive Baptist Church), Maggie and Sallie Emma Jordan. When Earl first saw Sallie he knew this was the one he wanted to marry. Since she was only 13 years old, he had to wait for her.

Earl and his cousin, Lynwood Wilson, bought a car together which was the first car at Cedar Grove. This very likely got them a lot of attention! Since Earl was born about the time the automobile came into existence, he must have had a fascination for this invention. He remembered the first car he ever saw.

He ordered a manual from Sears and Roebuck and learned how to mechanic. Later, he and Lynwood opened a garage near his father's farm. (This was down the road past where the Rogers family lived and on the same side of the street.)

By this time the family had moved to a log cabin on the farm. They had not been eager to live in the log cabin because it was not a good place to live and they had to wash clothes in the spring. Their plan was to live in the log cabin while they were building their house. Since it was during WWI they were afraid that Earl and John would have to go into service and they would be in the cabin longer than necessary. Earl was rejected because of his poor vision and when John was turned down, they moved into the cabin and the house was built around 1920-22.

During the years that Earl was helping his father farm, he was responsible for seeing that his younger siblings worked in the fields. This did not make him popular, especially with his brother Andrew. Andrew resented him and would tell

him that he would be glad when he got big enough to "beat him up".

Many times when the children were working in the field, their father was hunting and fishing. He would bring his game home and the women were responsible for dressing and preparing it for the family.

Earl never enjoyed hunting and fishing, but he loved farming. Earl was a very serious-minded, shy young man. He was also kind and tender-hearted. According to his own testimony, he never even tasted any kind of alcoholic drink, with the exception of a little homemade wine. He did not use profanity. His only vice was chewing tobacco. This was very acceptable among members of his generation. They had no idea that this was harmful to their bodies, and, after all, growing tobacco was their livelihood.

Earl was not a big talker. He would sit for long periods of time reading. Sallie would complain because she liked to talk, and she thought he was not listening to her.

Earl was about 5'10 " tall with green eyes and dark brown hair. He lost a lot of his hair at an early age leaving the top bald with just a small amount from the front combed toward the back. He always complained (jokingly) because the barber charged him full price for a haircut. He joked a lot about his bald head and many of other things.

Earl was sorry that he did not have more education than he did. He dropped out of school when his father needed him full-time on the farm. He estimated that he probably had an equivalent of a seventh-grade education. However, since he was an avid reader, and had the ability to figure large sums in his head, his actual education was probably much higher than his estimate.

My mother, Sallie Emma Jordan, was born in Burlington, North Carolina, November 17, 1901, to Thomas Lambert and Maggie Murray Jordan. Sallie was the oldest child and was named for her two grandmothers, Sallie (Sarah) Wilkerson Jordan and Emma (Emily) Walker Murray. Two little boys were also born to this union; Thomas, b. June 13, 1905, and only lived a few hours and Allie Lambert, b. June 15, 1908 and died August 16, 1909.

Sallie's father was sick with tuberculosis, and during the latter part of his illness Sallie had to live with her Aunt Bettie Moore. Sallie was just eight years old when her father died on November 23, 1909, just three months after Allie Lambert died.

Maggie got a job with the cotton mill to support Sallie and herself. Since she could not leave Sallie alone while she worked, they lived in boarding houses. This was a very lonely life for Sallie who was a "people person."

Sallie was five feet and two inches tall, with gray-green eyes and light, auburn hair. She had a very outgoing personality and never met a stranger. She



had a good sense of humor and seemed to really enjoy life. She would do her housework humming or singing. She enjoyed cleaning house and decorating such as painting or recovering furniture. She loved working in her yards and always had pretty yards. She also liked to go places and visit people.

Maggie was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church, a church that did not believe in having Sunday School. However, Maggie encouraged Sallie to go to Sunday School with her friends.

One of Sallie's best friends was Grace Brown Love. Grace's father was superintendent of the cotton mill so Sallie had many advantages by having her for a friend. She was able to go places and do things that she could not have done otherwise. The Brownings, Chana, Fannie, and Walter, were good friends, in fact, Walter was her first boy friend.

When Sallie was old enough to be at home alone, they moved into a mill house and by Sallie's own words, "set up housekeeping." This had been their dream for a long time. They were really thrilled to have their own place.

When Sallie started to high school, Maggie and Sallie moved from Burlington to Graham because Graham had the best high school. Even though Maggie had little education, she wanted Sallie to have a good chance in life. Sallie graduated from Graham High School in 1919 and attended Elon College which was about five miles from Graham. She rode the train home on weekends unless Earl drove her.

Sallie Emma and her mother, Maggie Jordan, continued to come to church and visit in the home of Aunt Emma Wilson and even visited in Earl's home. Sallie and Earl started dating when she was 17 and he was 22. This was the year that Sallie finished Graham High School and went to Elon College. Dating in those days consisted of going to church together, visiting in the girl's home, and going to social activities that were well chaperoned. Once he visited Sallie at her home and stayed until **10 P.M.** When he left, Maggie was a little upset and said that she thought he was going to *spend the night!* (He overheard what she said!)

Earl bought Sallie many nice gifts while they were dating. Among them were a fox, fur-piece, *head and all*, which was worn around the neck, and a card-case which was a flat silver case with her initials, held by a silver chain. Inside was a place for coins, powder and a clip for paper money. Other gifts were a birth stone ring, a cameo pin and the most important gift of all, an *engagement* ring.

He had the ring hidden in his room (while they still lived in the log cabin) before giving it to Sallie. One day his youngest sister, Mabel, was at home alone and *found it*. Mabel was probably looking for some interesting letters to read since she loves to read and Sallie and Earl's love letters were the most interesting reading material around. While admiring the ring, *Mabel dropped it and it rolled*

down the stairs! She was fearful that she had lost it or that the others would come in before she could recover it. Fortunately, for her, she was not found out and told them about it later... *much later*.

When Earl proposed, Sallie accepted, but told him that she had promised her mother that she would wait until she was 19 to marry. This would give her a chance to finish her commercial course that she was taking at Elon College and to work for awhile before marrying. Keeping her promise to her mother, she turned 19 on Wednesday and married on Friday, November 19, 1920.

When they first married they lived at Star Store, Graham, North Carolina. On December 13, 1920, they moved to Mebane on Thompson's Height. Earl sold tractors for Correlle Motors. Ora McAdams boarded with them until they moved to the Bradley place on March 17, 1921, where Earl started a garage. Aunt Emma Wilson gave them a hen with ten little chicks. In her memory book, Sallie reported fishing with very little luck except for minnows. By May 1922, they were living in Durham at 828 Wilkerson Avenue. On the 23 of that month, their first son, Earl Henry Daniel, was born. Earl's name was reversed for him since they wanted to call him E.H. He was the first grandchild on either side of the family and received plenty of attention. On August 24, 1924, their second son, Thomas James, was born while they were living at Mebane. T.J. was named for his two grandfathers.

Most of the time Earl made their living by being an auto mechanic. Maggie gave up her job at the cotton mill and lived with them. She took nursing jobs, living with and taking care of people, so was only with them between jobs.

Earl liked being a mechanic but found the work uncomfortable in the winter. After much thought and planning with his family, it was decided to move to a milder climate. This was during the Florida Boom. His cousin, Carvey Daniel, had already moved to Hahira, Georgia, and liked it. In early November, 1925, Earl, Leland Daniel (Carvey's brother), and Willie made a trip to Hahira to see if this was a good place to move. They must have thought so since the climate was better and the town was located on the main route to Florida.

The big move came after Christmas in the last week of 1925. Earl drove his car with Sallie, E.H., T.J., his mother, Sallie's mother, and his two sisters, Elizabeth and Mabel. It took five days in a crowded car. When everyone got into place there was no moving until the car stopped again. They stopped at rooming houses at night to sleep. The road was unpaved and unmarked. Earl's dad, Willie, drove his car and John drove a truck with furniture. It took John so long that they went back looking for him. All of the families that moved together rented a box car on the train for \$100 and moved their furniture in this way.

Some other families that moved to Georgia from North Carolina were Gus Fuqua and Dave Hicks, father of Cora, Leland's wife. Earl, John, Willie and Leland



Daniel bought a garage and went into business together. On January 15, 1926, Earl and Willie borrowed \$1053.35 from the Bank of Hahira and the next day closed the sale on Daniels Motor Company located on the corner of Church and Lucretia Streets.

In the fall of 1926, Earl, Sallie, E.H., T.J., Maggie, Sue, and Willie made a visit back to North Carolina. Maggie had missed her family and friends in North Carolina, so she stayed in Burlington when the group returned to Georgia. In December, she had to go into the hospital for the second time after leaving Georgia. Sallie traveled by train to be with her. She died of liver cancer on December 19, 1926, and was buried in the Burlington City Cemetery next to her husband and sons. Sallie and her mother had been so close, this was *devastating* to her. Earl had driven up to be with her for the funeral and to drive her home.

There was more discontentment in Georgia! On July 29, 1927, Leland sold his fourth of the business to his partners and moved back to North Carolina. The Hicks family moved back with them except for Mr. Hicks and one of Leland and Cora's daughters who had died. They were buried at Friendship Cemetery.

During this same period of time Sue's nephews, Hubert and Zola Morgan (sons of Alex) moved to Cecil, Georgia, and grew tobacco for about two years. They moved back to the eastern part of North Carolina where they had always lived.

Willie and Sue did not sell their farm when they moved to Georgia. They rented it out. In the fall of 1929, John, Sue and Mabel returned to live on the farm. Willie had bought a small farm out from Hahira so he stayed and lived with Earl and Sallie and ran a cafe next to Daniels Motor Company. This was so surprising to everyone who knew him because he *NEVER* did any cooking or dishwashing at home. A few of the dishes and other things from that cafe are still in existence. After a year he also returned to his family and farm in North Carolina.

Mabel continued her education when she moved to Hahira. She went two years to Hahira High and finished in the class of 1928. She taught school one year at Barretts before moving back to North Carolina.

While living in Hahira she met and dated B.J. Miley. They broke up before she went back to North Carolina but he did not give up. He wrote her and visited her. (more later)

Elizabeth did not finish school but got a job with a doctor and also worked at the telephone office. She went to Birmingham to work for about a year and then went back to North Carolina to join her family. Elizabeth married Laurine (Cooney) Lawson from Hahira. They spent most of their married life in Miami. They had no children, but were very good to their nieces and nephews.

Andrew was building highways in Florida when his family moved to

Georgia. He helped build U.S. 41 through Hahira. He eventually went to Chattanooga to work and met and married Myrtle Pitts, a widow with two daughters, Margaret and Adeline.

Sallie and Earl first lived in a house on Owens Street which is now known as the Norwood Miley home. Earl took a correspondence course to learn how to make and repair radios. He made and owned the first radio in Hahira. He would put it on the porch of his house and people would park in front to listen to the fights.

While living in this house their third child and first daughter was born on August 11, 1927. She was named Maggie Sue for her two grandmothers.

On the porch of this house E.H. had a serious accident. He was riding his little pedal car from one end of the porch to the other, and, being the smart aleck that he was, he would act like he was turning when he got to the steps. Once he did not turn back soon enough and went down the steps. He got a terrible cut on his right forehead and had a bad scar there for the rest of his life. The headaches that he suffered as an adult may have been caused by this accident. The scar caused his face to be crooked with the right side shorter than the left.

The family next moved into a house on Lawson Street across the street from the school. This house is known as the Bob LeGette House. E.H. was five years old and too young to start to school, but after Christmas he was allowed to start. He was excited about going but on the first day, he came home at recess and announced, "I don't like school and I never intend to go another day!" Of course, Sallie turned him around and marched him back to school. When asked what he wanted to do when he grew up, he would say, "I guess I'll be a preacher, nobody else will!"

In the midst of the great depression, Earl was fortunate to keep a job when so many were out of work. They had closed Daniel's Motor Company maybe because of the depression and maybe because his partners had left him. He worked for Mr. H.M. Barfield, Sr. and hauled produce to Florida.

Sallie and Earl had always wanted a home of their own. Sallie had always lived in rented places so really dreamed of her own place. On December 1, 1928, Earl bought a house on the edge of Hahira. It was a two bedroom, "shotgun type" house that was not completely finished. Earl spent his spare time working on their home.

On August 12, 1930, John Cecil, was born in this house.

Sallie decided to hold T.J. out of school until he was seven because he was *such a baby*. She was concerned about his slow development and had a *bad feeling* about him for awhile. One day a neighbor came and told her that one of her children had been hit by a pick-up truck. She *knew* at once which one. She



rushed to where this happened ( in front of Mr. Jordan's shop), picked him up and directed Mr. Steve Johnson to take her to the doctor. Dr. Smith told her that he had been killed instantly and did not feel a thing. T.J. had been walking with John Jordan, John had just gone into his house when T.J.'s ball went in front of the truck and he darted after it. E.H. & Ray were right behind him and probably saw it happen. John told me that he never got over the loss of his friend.

It must have had an even more devastating effect on E.H. with him being the older brother and either seeing the accident or seeing T.J. right after it happened. I believe this may have led to some of the problems that he experienced later. At the time of T.J.'s death, December 15, 1931, Earl was in Florida hauling produce. There was not a funeral home in Hahira and, as was the custom, his coffin was placed in the home before the funeral. His funeral was at Friendship Primitive Baptist Church where he was buried. Sallie had started taking the children to the Methodist Church and so her pastor preached the funeral. John, Elizabeth and Mabel came from North Carolina and barely made it in time for the funeral. Sallie said later that she saw that little coffin in the dining room for many years. Also, losing both her mother and son right before Christmas made Christmas a sad time for her.

Sallie told Mr. Johnson that she did not blame him for T.J.'s death. She understood that he could not help the accident. Years later, when Mr. Johnson was in the Nursing Home in Hahira, Sallie visited him but did not let him know who she was. Her last name was Howell at this time.

They enjoyed their house and neighbors. Next door were the Shirlings and later Foster and Christelle Hall and their children: Octavia, Carolyn and James Hilton (Buddy). The families became good friends, and the children played together. The house across the street was rented for a while and then Foster's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Nog Hall, bought the place and lived there. Two houses down, lived Jesse and Ora Bell Jordan with their large family. Mr. Jordan worked for the railroad and was gone a lot. Sallie sewed for Inez and Gladys since Mrs. Jordan didn't sew; E.H. was buddies with Ray; T.J. and John were friends; Maggie Sue and Mamie Bell were best friends, Cecil and the twins, Brady and Grady, were pals, and Effie, Carolyn Hall and I played together. Sallie and Mrs. Jordan would sit on the Jordan front porch with Sallie doing her needlework while they talked and watched us play.

Mabel decided to stay in Georgia with Sallie since Earl was still hauling produce. She and B.J. must have done a lot of letter writing because they married on February 27, 1932. They drove to Jasper, Florida, and didn't tell anyone what they were up to. They moved into a house that B.J. had already bought on Owens Street. The following February 18, their daughter, Barbara Jean, was born. Mabel

went to North Carolina for this event so she would be with her mother. Six years later their son, Daniel Luther, arrived on January 6, 1939.

When Mabel went back to North Carolina in the summers for a visit, E.H. would go and spend time with our grandparents until we would go for our visit. E.H. found arrowheads in the fields when they plowed. He had quite a collection of arrowheads and Indian head pennies. Sallie found that she was expecting again and on October 15, 1933, Rosalyn Jordan was born. During her pregnancy a young girl visited the Gibbons family with the name of Rosalyn and that was the only name she had picked out. I asked her once what she would have named me if I had been a boy and she said, "*Rosalyn*". For the first time, I was glad to be a girl, and it made me feel that they wanted a girl. Dr. E.J. Smith suggested that she add her maiden name.

Sallie began to feel rather weak and in May 1934, she was lighting her kerosene *New Perfection* stove when she realized that she was numb. Dr. Smith did not know what the problem was, so brought his son in who had just finished medical school. Dr. Raymond Smith said that he had read of a case like this and that she had phlebitis with the blood clot on the back of her brain. She lay for six weeks without moving a muscle on her left side. At least twice, Dr. Raymond said that she would not live through the night and *she heard him!*. Having such a determination to educate her children she prayed that she would live to accomplish this. God granted that wish; she out-lived both the doctor and Earl by more than 30 years. Her recovery was slow, however, she learned to do almost everything that she had done before, but with more effort. She could sew but could never knit, crochet or make tatting again. She still enjoyed embroidering and always made her pillowcases to match. She let us learn to embroidery on those pillowcases.

After Sallie's illness Earl hired the washing done. These were the days before automatic or wringer-type washing machines were invented. A person would build a fire under the wash-pot full of water, use the washboard to scrub the dirty spots and then put the clothes into the boiling water. Then a stick was used to stir the clothes and to lift them in and out of the water until they were cleaned; rinsed and wrung by hand and hung out to dry. This took all day and ironing took another day. *Those were the good ole days?*

The world was a different place back then. We had no running water or electricity until the early forties. We used a toilet in the back yard. The city would send the "honey wagon" to clean it out. A man would come with a covered, mule-drawn wagon and would clean the toilet from the back with a shovel. I can remember seeing the wagon going down the street with a slow drip.

The ice-man would come, and my mother would order a nickel block of ice.



He would bring a large block of ice, using huge sharp-pointed tongs and put it in the ice box. We got our water from a well in the back yard.

We bathed on Saturdays, whether we needed it or not. We drew the water from the well, heated it on the stove, put it in a wash tub in the kitchen and bathed, one at a time, in the same water. When the weather was warm enough, the tub was placed behind the well which was also behind shrubbery.

We entertained ourselves by playing Carum (similar to pool), Rook (a card game), horseshoes, and swinging in a homemade swing made of a burlap bag, stuffed and tied to a rope which hung from a tall pine limb. E.H. made this and built a scaffold to swing to and fro. This was out of Sallie's sight so when E.H. broke his collarbone, she must have had it taken down. We loved playing in a ditch near the house catching minnows but did run into a few snakes. The boys enjoyed fishing in Hodges Pond behind our house. We had fun playing in the woods that was part of the Hodges Estate. The ball game that we played was called town ball, played with a board for a bat and used a hard rubber ball.

We picked blackberries for pies and jelly and sold any surplus. Mrs. Remer Scruggs was a good customer, especially after she got one of the first freezers in Hahira.

We certainly did not watch television because it did not arrive in South Georgia until the fifties.

We loved going swimming in the river. Our parents would usually sit and watch while we swam. Later, we were able to go to Barber's Pool in Valdosta, and finally, we got a pool in Hahira.

We also had a movie theater in Hahira and loved going on Saturday when *everybody* went to see a cowboy movie. It cost fifteen cents to get in, popcorn was a nickel a bag, and cokes were another nickel. Nobody that we knew had much money, but we didn't worry about money. You didn't see the greed that you see now.

Most girl's dresses were made by their mothers, and they were cuter than the ones that you could buy. Girls wore dresses to school; it wasn't until the forties that women started wearing pants and shorts (and then not to school).

We had a cow that provided our milk, and we made our own butter. It was E.H.'s job to milk. He loved listening to the radio and was learning to work on radios from our dad. He ran a speaker to the barn from the radio in the house and listened to his music as he milked. Later, Cecil took over the milking job.

We also had our own chickens. When Sallie wanted to have chicken for dinner, she walked into the yard, picked up a chicken and wrung its neck. Then she put the chicken in scalding water, picked the feathers off, took the intestines, etc. out, cut it up and it was ready to be cooked. It was really fresh! The girls had

to learn to do all of this. Sallie didn't like the job of killing chickens, but if she had waited for Earl to kill one, we would not have had chicken. Earl was too tender-hearted to kill anything, and he worked long hours at the garage.

We lived near the school and could go home for lunch. School let out for an hour for lunch. The ones that lived too far away brought their lunches until they started the lunchroom. Many students brought produce from home to pay for their lunch.

I did not eat in the lunchroom until I was in high school (for 15 cents). Sallie started keeping the parts department at the garage for Earl to go to the farm. He loved to go and plow all day on the farm. He had a share-cropper that was supposed to do the work, but he didn't know how to drive a tractor so Earl would do it for him. I was disappointed when I came home in the afternoon to an empty house, and I was in high school before this happened.

Every summer our family would make a trip to North Carolina to visit our grandparents. This is the only vacation we would take. We would also visit Mama's relatives but since she was an only child, she did not have close kin. The trip that I remember best is when we drove E.H.'s "baby" Austin. Cecil and I rode in the cubby hole in the back. Maggie Sue must have gone in another car. People that still live in NC remember that trip.

Our grandparents took a young boy, David Smith, to live with them on the farm. On our next trip after that we were excited about seeing David. We spent many happy hours playing with David in North Carolina and Georgia.

The last trip that my family made to North Carolina was in 1941. We got an urgent call that John, Earl's brother, was missing. He had been last seen on June 8, when he went walking in a park in Greensboro. We hurriedly went to North Carolina and the men in the family went looking for him, *in vain*. We had to return to Georgia and about three weeks after his disappearance, his body was found in a well behind a shanty that was used by black people, probably for illegal activities. The police tried to say it was a suicide, but the family never believed this. John was a highly respected man by all who knew him. He was a Christian who did not believe in suicide and his morals were too high to have ever gone to a place like that. The shanty was behind the park and the family believes that he accidentally happened up on some law breakers that killed him so that he could not witness against them. He was not robbed of the money that was on him. His death was quite a shock to everyone who knew him. He had always been such a devoted son to his mother that she never got over his death. She was 63 years old with no gray hair. She started graying soon after losing John but never turned completely white-headed.

After John's death, Willie and Sue sold their farm and made the final move



to Georgia. They bought a farm south of Hahira and later moved into a small house next to Earl and Sallie when they were not able to continue managing the farm. Earl built the small, three-room house (with their money) for his parents so that his mother would not have much housework to do. It was nice having our grandparents next door.

By this time, Earl had accumulated more property. Other than the garage and house, he bought land near our house. We farmed this land with truck crops and tobacco. The money that he made from the crops was invested in land about 11 miles from Hahira in the Cat Creek area. He bought three small, adjoining farms at different times. Earl joked about moving to the farm. Sallie did not want to live that far from town. I really don't know whether he wanted to live there or if he was just teasing her. There was not a decent house on either place in which to live. Ironically, one of the finest homes in Lowndes County is now on this property. This house was featured in Southern Living a few years ago. Sallie was upset that Earl kept investing in more land. She told him that he wanted *just the land that joined his*. Fortunately, this land provided an income for Sallie the last 33 years of her life.

E.H. was just out of high school when World War II came. He had already made the decision not to go to college, much to our mother's disappointment. He knew that he would be called into service so he enlisted in the Army Air Force on October 26, 1942, and was sent to Fort McPherson in Atlanta. Since he had learned to work on radios from our dad, he went into that field in service.

He was stationed at Moody Field from November 13, 1942, until July 1943, when he went to Tyndall Field, Florida. While he was at Moody and Tyndall his transportation was a motorcycle. Once he had an accident at Tyndall that put him in the hospital with sand bruises on his face. In July 1944, he shipped out to Italy and served near Naples.

Since he worked on radios he was behind the lines. He said that the worst he saw was the wounded coming in from the front lines. One of the highlights of his tour was getting to see the Pope in Rome. After the war in Europe was over he thought he was on his way home. He was confused with another Earl Daniels and was mistakenly sent to Trinidad. It took six months for him to get home. He arrived in December 1945, to a big welcome and all of his favorite foods.

Meanwhile, the war was difficult for us on the home front. Gas was rationed so you couldn't go anywhere much. Sugar, meat, coffee and shoes were also rationed. This meant that each family was allotted a certain number of stamps per person that they must **have** to make these purchases. Many things that were not rationed were impossible to get because everything went to the war effort. I don't think it was a tremendous burden and we really had what we needed.

Everybody was patriotic and willing to help out. We bought savings stamps and war bonds. We prayed for our country, for our servicemen and for the leaders of our country.

The women in Hahira would go down to city hall and watch for airplanes. If they saw one, they called Moody Field and reported its location and direction. I enjoyed going with my mother to observe planes. The use of the telephone was what I was most interested in since we did not have one, and I had never used one.

There were very few phones in Hahira at that time. People had party lines which meant that if you picked up when someone on your line was talking, you could listen to their conversation (of course, that was considered rude). When you wanted to call someone you just picked it up, and the operator asked, "Number please?" You gave her your number, and she connected you with your party. She could listen to any conversation in town. She usually knew everybody's business and even if your party was at home or not.

Sallie had not seen her Aunt Josie Rogers who lived in Tipton County, Tennessee, but once in her life. Sallie sent Aunt Josie the money for a bus ticket and she came for a visit. Aunt Josie was our grandmother's identical twin sister; we had never known our grandmother; so it was almost like having our grandmother with us. She taught me how to crochet and crocheted items for us like doll caps, etc. Naturally, Sallie enjoyed having her mother's twin sister for awhile. She corresponded with Aunt Josie all of her life. When we got a letter from her it took the whole family to *decipher* it since she had so little education and such poor handwriting.

Earl had worked for Mr. Hum (H.M.) Barfield at his garage and then rented the Cities Service station across the street from the old Daniel's Motor Co. During the war he and Cecil built a new masonry building where the old Daniel's Motor Co. was located and named it Daniels' Garage. He had an auto parts department up front on one side and his radio repair business on the other. When E.H. came home from the war he took over the radio repair business. He soon moved next door to the old cafe building where Willie had had his cafe.

Some of the mechanics that Earl had working for him were Flem Roberts, Doc Joiner, Carvey Daniel and after the war, Clyde and Rudolph (Goody) Goodyear.

The Goodyear brothers needed a place to board so Sallie rented them a room at our house. They each paid one dollar per day and ate with us. They were like members of our family and Clyde, especially, was like a brother to me. Sallie had wanted Maggie Sue and me to learn to play the piano. She bought a piano from Mrs. Edna Griffin for \$25, paid us one dollar a week for helping her out, and



talked us into taking lessons with the money she was paying us. In spite of all her efforts the talent was not there for me, but I'm glad that I took for a short time.

On February 27, 1947, E.H. married Dorothy Coppage in her parents' home east of Hahira. They were blessed with two daughters, Lynn, born April 16, 1948, and Teresa, born August 6, 1949. We all loved and enjoyed these children so much. E.H. did further his education after the war by using the G.I. Bill to take radio courses to learn all he could about his trade. He later took courses on repairing televisions and moved to Atlanta to open a television repair shop.

Maggie Sue finished high school with honors and received a small scholarship to attend the women's college in Valdosta. She attended for two years and dropped out because she was having trouble with her eyes. She kept the parts place for our dad and then went to Jacksonville to work. She met and married Edward Kiereck. Their children are: Rita, born in Florida; Deborah, Veronica and Maria, born while Ed was in Chiropractic College in Chicago; Joseph, born in Boston, Georgia, after Ed started his practice there; and Tommy, who was born back in Ed's native Rochester, New York, where they had moved permanently. Sue worked at the post office until she retired. Ed died in 1966. Sue has been able to do a lot of traveling in this country, as well as overseas. She has enjoyed taking college courses, especially different languages. She loves to dance, and has learned many different types of dances.

Andrew and Myrtle, Margaret and Adeline moved from Chattanooga to Hahira. Andrew went into the sawmill business. He and Myrtle divorced and she and her girls moved back to Chattanooga. He married Aline Howell, a widow with a son, Derry. They had four daughters: Tommie Sue, Elizabeth (Betty) and twins, Jan and Ann. After Aline's death, Andrew was married to Dorothy Cox the last ten years of his life.

Cecil finished high school in 1947. He had one year of college at Middle Georgia College; transferred to ABAC and received his BS degree from the University of Georgia. He served in the army during the Korean conflict. While at the University of Georgia, he met Elsie Todd from Suches, Georgia. They married in a church in Atlanta while he was in the army and before she finished at Georgia. They have five children: Cecilia, Louise, Earl, Beth and Todd. Cecil spent his career with the Extension Service and Elsie taught school. Cecil got his master's degree from the University of Georgia and Elsie received her master's and educational specialist from the same school. Both Elsie and Cecil have been very active in civic work. They both belong to the Lion's Club where Cecil recently served as district governor. Elsie is very active in the American Association of University Women (AAUW). The two of them spearheaded a statewide drive through these organizations (including 4-H Club) to place a Cherokee Rose,

Georgia's state flower, in each of Georgia's 159 counties.

Rosalyn and Barbara Miley were close friends as they were growing up. They played together, studied together and even worked in tobacco together. They graduated from Hahira High School in 1950, with Barbara as the valedictorian of their class. Rosalyn went to ABAC and Barbara went to the University of Georgia with plans to be roommates when Rosalyn joined her at Georgia for their junior year. They did room together and remained close friends and also graduated together in 1954, from the University of Georgia.

On July 10, 1954, Rosalyn married Robert Sumner of Hahira in the Methodist Church. Sue came for Rosalyn's graduation and to be matron of honor in the wedding.

When Robert was discharged from the Air Force, he went to ABAC and the University of Georgia, graduating in 1958. Robert was an agriculture teacher, then a principal and superintendent of schools. Rosalyn taught grade school, served as a case worker and was a home demonstration agent with the extension service for a short time. Both Rosalyn and Robert earned their master's degree in education. They have two daughters, Kathie and Kae.

Rosalyn and Cecil were in college at the same time which was a financial burden on Earl. On March 12, 1952, Sallie heard Earl gasping for breath in the night. She ran next door and summoned Dr. Jesse Parrott. Dr. Parrott gave him a shot, knowing it would not save him. He died of cardiac thrombosis without gaining consciousness. This was such a shock for our family. We all loved him so much; we could not imagine life without him.

Cecil was a graduating senior so returned to school. On the weekend before his death, Earl had asked Rosalyn to stay out one quarter because he was having trouble coming up with the money for them both to stay in school.

Sallie was glad to have someone with her and to have help. She told Rosalyn that when she had found out she was pregnant with her she had thought that she could not go through another pregnancy. Now, she did not know what she would do without her and that she was a real blessing to her.

Sallie and Earl had a happy marriage. They provided a peaceful and loving home for their family. There was no fussing and fighting, at least not in front of the children. They would discuss things and certainly did not agree on everything but did not raise their voices to each other or to the children. They were not in the habit of saying, "I love you," to the children or to each other, but they showed love and I never doubted that I was loved.

The biggest disagreement they had was over religion. Both of their families were Primitive Baptist. Primitive Baptists meet one Sunday a month. Sallie wanted her children in church more often, and since she had gone to Sunday



School herself as a child, she saw the importance of training for children. She became a faithful member of the Hahira Methodist Church for the remainder of her life. Earl could not accept the differences in the two churches. He did not attend church regularly after his mother moved back to North Carolina and he never joined the church. However, he had a strong faith, he read his Bible and lived by its teachings. The two of them mostly had friendly discussions about the differences in the two churches.

Sallie was a widow for six years. She dated several nice men. On March 2, 1958, she married Jim Howell. She enjoyed having someone to go places with her, especially to church. They were able to do some traveling together. Jim always had a wonderful garden and they enjoyed eating and preserving the vegetables. Jim sold vegetables all over Hahira to earn extra money. He also raised chickens in the back yard and sold eggs.

*Tragedy* stuck again! E.H. celebrated his 36<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 23, 1958. The next day he was working on his newly purchased car in his terraced yard at East Point, Georgia. He positioned the car over a terrace in the yard. This gave him a place to get under the car. While he was working, the car started rolling down the sloping yard. He had his hands up in the motor of the car so he was dragged to the next terrace, dropped and run over by the car. Dorothy and the girls watched helplessly. He died a few hours later in the hospital.

When Sallie starting getting feeble, her left side gave away, and she could not walk without assistance for the last ten years of her life. Jim took care of her at home as long as he could and then she was in the nursing home during her last years. Jim visited her faithfully during this time.

Sallie died September 2, 1985. In her will she gave Jim a life estate in her house. He lived there as long as he could and went into a nursing home. He died January 19, 1994.

Sallie's house, which was the same house that Willie and Sue lived in in 1928, was remodeled by Earl before the family moved into it in 1949. Four generations of this family have lived in that house. It is being restored by its present owners who are happy to show it to anyone who wishes to see it.

Sallie and Earl were ordinary people who lived ordinary lives. The longer I live the more I realize what extraordinary parents they were to some very lucky children who were so blessed to have such good, loving parents to teach them right from wrong, to work, to be honest, and to love God.

Our dad was a very honest man. I remember him telling me to always give an employer an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. He also said to remember that "everybody is not as honest as you are." He had sharecroppers that appreciated his honesty. It was customary for farmers to loan sharecroppers money to live on all year. Many sharecroppers had very little education and so had

no way of knowing if they got all of the money that was coming to them. One old black man named Cammie Baker said he had never had any money left after tobacco was sold until he worked for Mr. Earl.

Sallie and Earl have over 60 descendants.

The purpose of this paper is to bring back memories for those of us who knew Sallie and Earl, and for those who came along later, especially their descendants, maybe it will help them know something more about the lives of Sallie and Earl.

When our family lived in North Carolina, the name was Daniel. After moving to Georgia, my dad and his siblings added the "s". I can remember receiving mail from our grandparents while they were in North Carolina and noticing that they put their name as "Daniel" and ours as Daniels on the same envelope.

Written by Rosalyn Daniels Sumner  
with help of Mabel Daniels Miley  
April 10, 1997